

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08

CEA-02 L-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 261822Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4268

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UK, FR, EEC, PFOR

SUBJECT: BRITISH AND FRENCH SOCIALISTS DISCUSS EC

1. SUMMARY: WILSON AND MITTERRAND MET IN LONDON
SEPTEMBER 21 FOR THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF DIALOGUES
THE BRITISH LABOR PARTY IS HOLDING WITH FRATERNAL
PARTIES IN THE EC TO EXPLAIN ITS VIEWS ON BRITISH
MEMBERSHIP. MITTERRAND WAS SYMPATHETIC TO PLEAS FOR
A REFORM OF CAP, BUT SERVED NOTICE HE WOULD NOT
SUPPORT ANY MOVES TO DISMANTLE THE TREATY OF ROME.
THE TALKS WERE AMICABLE, BUT NECESSARILY INCONCLUSIVE.
END SUMMARY.

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2. DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING THE BRITISH LABOR PARTY AND THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY MET IN LONDON SEPTEMBER 21 TO DISCUSS THEIR RESPECTIVE POLICIES REGARDING THE EC. THE MEETING WAS AT BRITISH INITIATIVE AND IN PURSUIT OF THE BRITISH LABOR PARTY'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO EXPLAIN ITS VIEWS ON BRITISH MEMBERSHIP TO FRATERNAL PARTIES WITHIN THE EC. SIMILAR MEETINGS WITH THE DUTCH LABOR PARTY AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF GERMANY ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN AMSTERDAM AND BONN IN OCTOBER.

3. A PARTICIPANT IN THE SEPTEMBER 21 MEETING HAS GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT: HAROLD WILSON AND PETER SHORE DID MOST OF THE TALKING FOR THE BRITISH SIDE; FRANCOIS MITTERRAND WAS THE CHIEF SPOKESMAN FOR THE FRENCH. SHORE IS FANATICALLY OPPOSED TO BRITISH MEMBERSHIP ON ANY TERMS AND HE ARGUED IN EFFECT FOR TRANSFORMING THE EC INTO A FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION. MITTERRAND QUICKLY GAVE HIM TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE COULD EXPECT NO SUPPORT FROM FRENCH SOCIALISTS IF HE ATTEMPTED TO DISMANTLE THE TREATY OF ROME.

4. OF GREATER INTEREST WAS THE WILSON-MITTERRAND DIALOGUE. WITH RESPECT TO WILSON'S HIGHLY PUBLICIZED PLEDGE TO "RENEGOTIATE" THE TERMS OF BRITISH MEMBERSHIP, MITTERRAND OBSERVED THAT WHAT WOULD BE TERMED "RENEGOTIATION" BY THE BRITISH MIGHT WELL BE REGARDED BY THE OTHER EC MEMBERS AS A "REVIEW" -- IT WAS REALLY A SEMANTIC QUESTION.

5. WILSON SAID A FUTURE LABOR GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO REFORM AND REDUCE THE CAP. MITTERRAND SAID HE WAS "SYMPATHETIC" -- AFTER ALL, THE CAP FELL HEAVILY ON FRENCH INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, TOO. WILSON SAID LABOR WAS DETERMINED TO GET A BETTER DEAL ON COMMONWEALTH SUGAR AND IMPORTS FROM NEW ZEALAND. WITHOUT COMMITTING HIMSELF, MITTERRAND COMMENTED THAT IT WAS UP TO EACH MEMBER OF THE EC TO DECIDE WHAT ITS OWN PRIORITIES

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WERE AND TO FIGHT FOR THEM. IF LABOR WANTED TO PUSH
HARD ON COMMONWEALTH SUGAR AND NEW ZEALAND, THAT WAS
FINE -- IT WOULD HAVE TO TRADE OFF SOMETHING ELSE.
WILSON SAID THE UK WOULD HAVE TO GET A LARGER RETURN
FROM REGIONAL AID FUNDS. MITTERRAND SIMPLY AGREED
THAT BRITAIN PROBABLY PAID A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE
INTO THE EC. (OUR SOURCE CONCEDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE
BRITISH LABOR PARTY HAD NOT YET COME UP WITH A FORMULA
ON REGIONAL AID THAT WOULD REALLY GIVE THE UK A
SUBSTANTIAL SHARE.)

6. BESIDES MITTERRAND, THE FRENCH DELEGATION CONSISTED
OF GASTON DEFFERRE, ROBERT PONTILLON, LIONEL JOSPIN,
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NICOLE QUESTIAUX, AND HENRI DELISLE. BESIDES WILSON
AND SHORE, THE BRITISH SIDE INCLUDED BILL SIMPSON,

IAN MIKARDO, RON HAYWARD, TERRY PITT, AND TOM MCNALLY.

7. COMMENT: IF HE RETURNS AS PRIME MINISTER, WILSON IS BY NOW DEEPLY COMMITTED TO ENGAGING IN SOME VERY HARD BARGAINING -- BY WHATEVER NAME IT IS CALLED -- OVER THE TERMS OF BRITISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC, AND TO SUBMIT THE RESULTS TO THE BRITISH ELECTORATE. THIS BARGAINING WILL NOT BE THE HOLLOW CHARADE PRO-MARKETEERS IN THE LABOR PARTY ONCE CONFIDENTLY PREDICTED, IF ONLY BECAUSE PUBLIC SENTIMENT IN BRITAIN WILL DEMAND SOME POSITIVE RESULTS. AT THE SAME TIME, WILSON IS CAREFULLY MANEUVERING TO RETAIN AS MUCH LATITUDE AS POSSIBLE AND TO PREVENT THE ANTI-MARKETEERS FROM PLEDGING THE PARTY TO BRITISH WITHDRAWAL. IT IS AT LEAST PARTIALLY TO KEEP THE ANTI-MARKETEERS AT BAY THAT HE IS ENGAGED IN THIS SERIES OF TALKS WITH FRATERNAL PARTIES IN THE EC.

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